



# JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT

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## Calhoun or Committed?

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Two football teams met on the field. One team was much larger than the other. And, as expected, the larger team dominated the game, intimidating the smaller team at every play and pass and tackle. The hitting was fierce.

The smaller team had one player, Calhoun, who might make a difference. He was the fastest running back in the league, and his coach felt that if Calhoun could get any blocking, he could easily break free and outrun the larger players on the other team. The coach called a time out, brought his quarterback to the sidelines, talked with him about giving the ball to Calhoun and letting him run with it. The quarterback agreed.

However, when the first play came, Calhoun didn't touch the ball. The coach was seething. The second play came, and again Calhoun didn't touch the ball. In the final seconds of the game, the smaller team's only hope to win was for Calhoun to break free and score a touchdown. The play was snapped, the defensive line hit the offensive line, players tumbled and piled on one another, and still Calhoun did not get the ball. The coach was furious.

As the team headed back to the locker room, the coach confronted his quarterback: "I told you four times to give the ball to Calhoun." The quarterback stood tall and said, "Coach, you don't understand! Calhoun didn't want the ball!" Calhoun may have been the fastest back on the team, but evidently, he wasn't the most committed.

One of the most vital qualities to a successful life is commitment, the willingness to carry the ball no matter how large the adversary. That's true in the workplace, that's true in marriage, that's true in caring for your health, that's true in being a responsible citizen.

Success in any endeavor begins with making a commitment. No commitment, no victory! It's true in all of life. But the most important commitment that we make in life, of course, is the one we make to Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, when it comes to making an authentic commitment to Jesus Christ, many people are like Calhoun. They don't want to carry the ball.

In John 6, in one of the most amazing scenes in scripture, Jesus feeds the multitudes. Five thousand men and possibly an equal number of women and children were fed with five small loaves and two fish. The impact of that event on the multitude was enormous. They knew someone special was in their midst, and they wanted to make him king.

When Jesus saw that they were getting carried away and a movement was afoot to make him king, he retreated across the Sea of Galilee to his home in Capernaum. People were captivated by his miracles, not committed to his cause.

How about you? Are you captivated or committed? If you're not sure, look at your life and view the ways you've reacted when the going got tough. Did you hunker down or flee? Did you whine or pray? Did you seek the counsel of the Lord even if you knew you would be called to make a change in your lifestyle, or you run for cover (or cover your run)? Knowing how you've reacted in the past will help you determine your reactions on the future!

Are you a Calhoun or committed? The choice is yours.